

NSC BRIEFING

November 1956

POSSIBLE FUTURE SOVIET MOVES IN MIDDLE EAST

I. USSR may be content with present uneasy cease-fire in Egypt.

A. Many reports say Soviet stock "soaring" in Arab-Asian world for having stopped war.

B. USSR credited with saving Mass and frustrating Israeli-French-British.

II. On other hand USSR may hope cease-fire in Egypt will come unstuck and permit extensive Soviet trouble-making (short of general war). USSR might:

A. Promise Egypt and perhaps other Arab States the services of hundreds of thousands of "volunteers" now allegedly being recruited Moscow, Peiping, etc.

B. Demand transit or overflight privileges of Greece, Turkey, Iran and Iraq for aircraft and "volunteers", including warship passage through Turkish Straits.

C. Urge and covertly assist Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria and Lebanon to seize oil industries and pipelines.

D. To Egypt--Offer to deliver guns, military equipment and supplies in unlimited quantities and free.

1. Send Soviet warships into Mediterranean--perhaps on "naval visit."

2. Declare right to deliver military goods to Egypt and send Soviet merchant ships to any open Arab

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3. Mount clandestine submarine attacks against Anglo-French ships.
4. Guarantee Nasr regime politically and financially and urge him to fight to bitter end.
- E. In Syria--Announce full support for any Syrian regime aiding Egypt and resisting British and Israeli aggression and intrigue.
 1. Stage clandestine coup putting in power pro-Soviet regime headed by Khalid Bakdash, tough and able Moscow-trained Communist leader.
 2. Support regime by subversion of substantial elements Syrian Army loyal to pro-Egyptian Col. Sarraj, most dynamic man in Syrian Army.
 3. Immediately send paratroop brigade to occupy air fields and assist ~~Sarraj~~ army.
 4. Airlift as soon as practical technicians, advisers, stiffening "volunteers," etc.
 5. Eventually launch diversionary attack on Israel.
- F. To Jordan--Offer free arms aid, advisers, technicians and training for Jordanian forces.
 1. Encourage Jordanians to cooperate with Egyptian command.
 2. Maintain military threat-in-being on Israeli border.
 3. Insist that resettlement inside Israel of Arab refugees now in Jordan be prerequisite of any settlement of Arab-Israeli fighting.

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- G. To Saudi Arabia--Offer to substitute for US as trainer and provider of equipment for Saudi forces (note: there still is no Dhahran base agreement with US).
 - 1. Maintain military threat-in-being on Israeli border.
 - 2. Offer to provide clandestine support for Saudi attack on British in Buraimi, Aden, or elsewhere.
- H. In Iran and Iraq--Clandestinely encourage anti-British riots and if possible build up strength for eventual anti-regime rebellions.